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has nearly the value of that used in the "ordinary English system," and this may be regarded as an advantage.<sup>2</sup> The unit in "ordinary" use, however, is not and never will be the exact "standard" pound, because for almost all practical purposes the refinement of distinguishing between "local" and "standard" gravity-pull is of no importance. For precise work there appears to be absolutely no choice between the system which makes  $K=32.1740$  and that which makes  $K=1$  except that the latter simplifies the fundamental equation and all equations depending upon it.

Mr. Kent thinks the C.G.S. system "should not be inflicted on young students" because it is "only used in higher physical theory." The great majority of those who study mechanics are preparing for the profession of engineering. In view of the fact that in a large and increasingly important part of the present-day field of engineering—applied electricity—the units employed are based upon the C.G.S. system, it is difficult to assent to the view expressed by Mr. Kent on this point.

L. M. HOSKINS

STANFORD UNIVERSITY,  
March 29, 1915

#### CONDITIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In view of the fact that seventeen members of the faculty of the University of Utah have resigned their positions on the ground that it seemed to them "impossible to retain their self-respect and remain in the university," the council of the American Association of University Professors has authorized the appointment of a committee of inquiry to report upon the case. At the request of the president, the secretary of the

<sup>2</sup> The same advantage may be retained with the simpler equation (2) if we permit quantity of matter to be expressed in terms of a unit other than the pound. Why the reduction of quantity of matter from pounds to units 32.1740 times as great as the pound should be regarded as more puzzling than the reduction from pounds to tons or the reduction of a length from inches to feet, is something I have never been able to comprehend.

association recently spent four days in Salt Lake City investigating the situation in the university and collecting evidence to be laid before the committee. The special purposes and scope of the investigation are indicated in the extract from the letter addressed by the secretary of the association to the president of the university, which was printed in the issue of SCIENCE for last week.

The report of the committee of inquiry will be prepared and published at as early a date as is practicable. It is the purpose of the committee to present all the pertinent facts so fully in its report that university teachers may judge for themselves as to the administrative methods, and the conditions of professorial service, in the university. We make this statement in order that any one who is considering either the acceptance of a position in the university or the recommending of others for such a position, may look forward to a full knowledge of the situation in the near future, and may postpone immediate action in case he deems such knowledge advisable before reaching a final decision.

JOHN DEWEY,

*President of the American Association of University Professors,*

A. O. LOVEJOY,

*Secretary of the American Association of University Professors,*

EDWIN R. A. SELIGMAN,

*Chairman of the Committee of Inquiry*

April 30, 1915

#### UNNATURAL HISTORY

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I am sure your readers will be interested and instructed, and the monotony of their daily grind relieved, by the following information regarding hitherto unsuspected details in the life history of the kangaroo. These facts were given out by a university student in response to the question: "Explain how the young kangaroo obtains its nourishment."

*"Immediately after birth they are swallowed by the mother and finally lodged directly over the breasts, the teats being directed inwards.*